

Interview Summary

A telephone interview was held on April 10, 2008. Examiner's Doccio and Rubin were present along with Bruce R. Needham, representing the Applicants. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiners for taking time for the interview. Rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 was discussed. The Applicant agreed to add "computer readable medium" to the specification to provide antecedent basis to the amendment of claim 1. The Examiners agreed that this amendment to the specification along with the amendment to claim 1 would be sufficient to overcome the § 101 rejection. The Examiners agreed to withdraw the rejection of claims 8-15 because claims 8-15 are method claims and are statutory. The Applicants agreed to amend claim 16 in a similar way to claim 1 to make clear that the apparatus could be logic hardware and/or executable code stored on a computer readable medium. The Examiners also requested that the Applicants make clear that a computer readable medium is a physical implementation and not a transient signal.

The § 102 rejection was discussed. The Applicant pointed out that the invention is directed to real-time user interaction to resolve conflicts and accept or reject changes and that this differs from the prior art. In addition, the applicant pointed out that the contact sources were from the user's computer, which differs from the prior art. The Examiner suggested changing the term "local to" to something making this point clear. The Applicant agreed to change "local to" to "residing on" the user's computer. The Examiners tentatively agreed that the proposed amendments would overcome the prior art but stated that the search would have to be updated.